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Rebels Said to Oust Pastora

Reuter

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica, June 26—Eden Pastora, the Nicaraguan rebel leader wounded in a bombing last month, has been expelled from the guerrilla movement, a senior Costa Rican official said today.

The official said leaders of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance (Arde, from the Spanish) made the decision at a meeting last night. "The government has had reports for several days that this expulsion was going to take place," said Manuel Carballo, vice minister of the presidency here.

There was no immediate comment from Arde, which maintains its political base in Costa Rica. Rebel sources said leaders were meeting again to discuss the future of the movement, one of several engaged in the U.S.-backed campaign against Nicaragua.

Pastora, known as Comandante Zero, was at an undisclosed location in Panama. Last night he left a Caracas, Venezuela,

clinic where he had been recovering for 25 days from severe burns suffered in the bombing. Officials in Panama City would only say that Pastora was under tight security and that his stop-over was temporary.

The Panamanian officials refused comment on his final destination and on a report that he was on the way to Washington with a plastic surgeon from the Caracas clinic.

Pastora repeatedly has differed with other rebels seeking to unify the movement. He has opposed the main CIA-backed group in Honduras, saying it is dominated by rightist ex-guardsmen of the Somoza dictatorship that Pastora helped to oust.

Earlier this month Pastora said the bomb that killed five people was planted by infiltrators posing as journalists. He said the bombing occurred because he had given orders not to search journalists' equipment after some of them protested.